

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. By this amendment, new claims 25-27 are added. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the March 4 Amendment is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action dated December 4, 2002. As a supplement to that amendment, Applicants are adding new claims 25-27 that depend from independent claim 1 and further distinguish over the applied references. Each of claims 25-27 depends from independent claim 1, which is argued as being allowable in the March 4 Amendment. Claims 25-27 are allowable at least for that reason. In addition, each of these claims recites features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

For example, dependent claim 25 recites that the input signal (VIN) is a non-clock input signal. Yamauchi clearly shows that a clock signal CK is applied to the precharge circuits (100, 600) and speed-increasing circuits (800, 1200 and 1300). Thus, Yamauchi clearly does not teach or suggest all the features of dependent claim 25.

Additionally, dependent claim 26 recites that the speed-increasing circuit is driven by a signal from the second long-distance wiring when the input signal changes from a first state to a second state and the speed-increasing circuit is driven by a signal from the first long-distance wiring when the input signal changes from the second state to the first state. See page 8, lines 4-18 of the present specification, for example. Yamauchi clearly does not teach or suggest these respective features as Yamauchi does not teach or suggest the claimed first and second long-distance wirings. Additionally, Yamauchi does not teach or suggest that the speed-increasing circuit is driven by

signals along the first or second long-distance wirings. Yamauchi differs from the present specification in which a signal change may be accelerated not only from one end of the driver circuit 100 but also from the other end by using the second long-distance wiring 106 and a speed-increasing circuit 107, thereby enabling to significantly reduce the wiring delay time and increase the critical path speed as well as to improve the operation speed of the semiconductor integrated circuit device. Yamauchi clearly does not teach or suggest all of the features of dependent claim 26. Thus, dependent claim 26 defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason.

Still further, dependent claim 27 recites that a wiring delay time of the first long-distance wiring is different than a wiring delay time of the second long-distance wiring. See page 7, line 26-page 8, line 3 of the present specification, for example. Yamauchi does not relate to wiring delay times and therefore does not suggest all of the features of dependent claim 27. Dependent claim 27 defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason.

For the reasons set forth in the March 4 Amendment and the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-27 defines patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-27 are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 01-2135 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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